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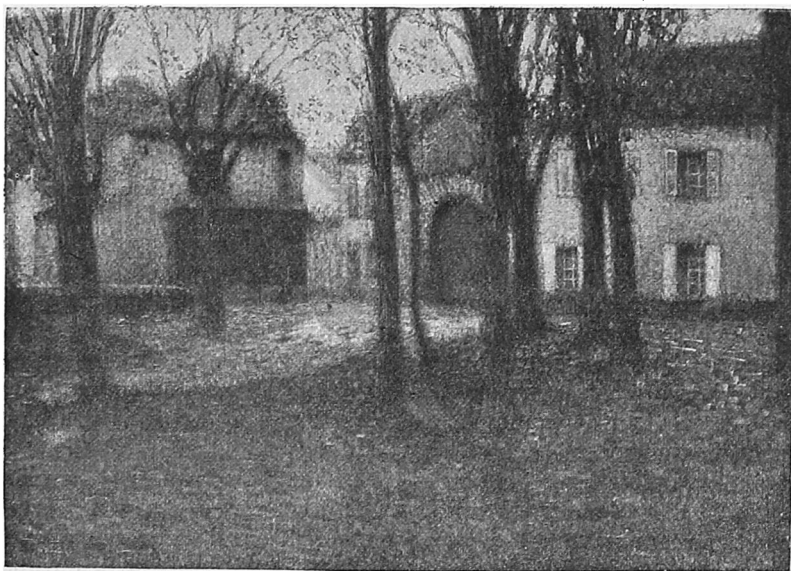
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The Collector and Art Critic

Sousa or ragtime demanded) the ever-increasing number of those who prefer a sonata to a two-step is only surpassed by

the number of those to whom grace and beauty in painting appeal more strongly than the anecdotal chromo.



The Little Grocery, by Sidaner

A Foreigner's Opinion of American Art

It is not surprising that there has been no real American art up to this time, because, with all the native talent of the artists, they were sent at once to copy French, or Italian, or German ideas, and as a consequence there was no genuine growth of American genius along American lines, which should be just as distinctive as French, or German, or Italian lines, but cannot be with foreign atmospheres always at work upon it.

"If I see two men walking in Paris, one I pick out immediately as a Frenchman, the other is just as certainly an American. In art the same should be true. If I go into a gallery I ought to be just as sure in saying, 'This painting is French—that painting is American,' but, alas! such is not the case. American art, as such, does not exist.

"And yet, there must be such a thing. You are a great people, expressing your power in a multitude of ways. There is

the American method of doing business, the American method in farming, the American fashion in clothes, and there must be an American Art, when it finds itself; when the American artists find a method of expressing themselves that is in consonance with their country, their life, their own true nature. The age of copying, of trying to graft foreign modes of expression upon American genius, must pass; and it seems to me that the psychological moment for this great movement has arrived.

"I believe that now is the time, and New York, the great American metropolis, is the place for the inauguration of this movement. If you wait only two or three years you shall be much slower in accomplishing your purpose. Now is the time, before you are overcome by the flood of foreign artistic ideas, none of which, of course, are American."

ALFONS MUCHA.